

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E. O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: OCON, TBIO, JA

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JAPANESE EMBASSY NOTE OF SEPTEMBER 19,
1973, ON THIS SUBJECT. INSTRUCTION FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

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"THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND, WITH REFERENCE TO THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE REGULATION OF WHALING ADOPTED AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION HELD LAST JUNE, HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE LATTER, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM ITS GOVERNMENT, OF THE FOLLOWING:

"1. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS PRESENTED ITS OBJECTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

"(1) TO CEASE THE TAKING OF FIN WHALES IN THE ANTARCTIC NO LATER THAN 30 JUNE 1976.
(SCHEDULE 8(A))

"(2) TO SET THE CATCH QUOTA OF MINKE WHALES IN THE ANTARCTIC FOR THE NEXT SEASON AT 5,000.
(SCHEDULE 8(A))

"(3) TO SET BY-AREA CATCH QUOTAS OF SPERM WHALES IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE FOR THE NEXT SEASON. (SCHEDULE 8(H))

"2. THE REASONS FOR THE OBJECTION ARE AS FOLLOW:

"(1) (A) THE CATCH QUOTA OF FIN WHALES IN THE ANTARCTIC FOR THE NEXT SEASON IS LESS THAN HALF OF THE SUSTAINABLE YIELD WHICH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION DECIDED THIS YEAR. IT GOES, THEREFORE, WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE FIN WHALES CAN BE PREVENTED FROM EXTINCTION AND EVEN THE RECOVERY OF THE STOCK MAY REASONABLE BE EXPECTED.

"(B) THE CATCH QUOTAS SHOULD BE DECIDED SO THAT THE EFFORT FOR THE CONSERVATION MAY RATIONALLY BE WELL BALANCED WITH THE INTERESTS OF WHALING NATIONS. THE IMPOSED BAN ON THE FIN WHALE CATCH RUNS COUNTER TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF ARTICLE V OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE REGULATION OF WHALING.
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ING THAT 'THESE AMENDMENTS OF THE SCHEDULE SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMERS OF WHALE PRODUCTS AND THE WHALING INDUSTRY.'

"(C) ONE PARTICULAR POINT WHICH HAS NOT RECEIVED DUE CONSIDERATION IN THE IMPOSED BAN IS THE VERY IMPORTANCE OF THE DEMAND FOR WHALE MEAT AS FOOD IN JAPAN (WHALE MEAT ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 10

PERCENT OF THE PRODUCTION OF ALL ANIMAL MEATS IN JAPAN.)

"(D) THIS BAN MAY VERY LIKELY LEAD TO THE TOTAL BAN ON ALL WHALE SPECIES IN ALL AREAS IN THE FUTURE.

"(2) IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT CONDITIONS OF MINKE WHALE STOCKS, THE MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD IS MORE THAN THE QUOTA OF 5,000 WHALES. FURTHER, WHEN THE FACT IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THAT THE WHALE STOCKS ARE NEW RESOURCES WHICH HAVE JUST BEGUN TO BE EXPLORED, THE ACTUAL SUSTAINABLE YIELD WILL INCREASE EVEN IF CATCHES ARE INCREASED.

"(3) WE DO NOT DENY THE RATIONALE OF THE IDEA TO FIX THE CATCH QUOTA BY AREAS AND TO PREVENT THE FISHING EFFORT FROM CONCENTRATING ON ANY OF THOSE STOCKS. HOWEVER, THE BY-AREA QUOTA ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN BASED ON ANY CLASSIFICATION OF THE SPERM WHALE STOCKS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND CONSEQUENTLY THE STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM WOULD HAVE NO SCIENTIFIC MEANING. BESIDES, NO CONSIDERATION WHATSOEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN TO WHALING OPERATIONS UNDER THIS CONTROL SYSTEM. THIS ENTAILS VARIOUS TECHNICAL AND LEGAL DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTING THIS SYSTEM UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION.

"3. (1) THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, IN CONNECTION WITH ITS OBJECTION ON THE ANTARCTIC FIN WHALES, IS PREPARED TO SET A QUOTA ON A VOLUNTARY BASE, PAYING DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE STOCKS INVOLVED. AND IN CASE THE STOCK

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CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED - THOUGH THIS IS QUITE UNLIKELY BECAUSE CATCHES OF LESS THAN 5000 WILL ALLOW THE STOCK TO INCREASE - THE QUOTA WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT THE PRESENT LEVEL. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PRESENT OBJECTION TO THE CATCH QUOTA OF FIN WHALES IN THE ANTARCTIC FOR THE NEXT SEASON.)

"(2) WITH REGARD TO THE ANTARCTIC MINKE WHALES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET A QUOTA VOLUNTARILY, BASED ON THE SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS OF THE STOCK. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO PREPARED TO CONSULT WITH THE U. S. S. R., ANOTHER ANTARCTIC PELAGIC WHALING NATION, IF NECESSARY, ON THIS MATTER." KISSINGER

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